



Week 2 Assignment

Overview

The Texas Campus STaR Chart was developed around the four key domains of the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020: Teaching and Learning; Educator Preparation and Development; Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support; and Infrastructure for Technology. The STaR Chart is designed to help campuses determine their progress toward meeting both Long-Range Plan and district goals.

In the Week 1 assignment, you summarized the Long-Range Plan and the Technology Applications TEKS, and completed a self-assessment of the requisite skills that you need to implement the TEKS.

In this week's assignment, you will look at the strengths and weaknesses of your campus as you examine and apply data from the Texas Campus STaR Chart, a technology data-gathering tool provided by the state. You will complete a three-year comparison of Texas Campus STaR Chart data from your campus with statewide summary data. Like the resources you utilized in your Analysis assignment, the STaR chart will prove useful as you become an instructional leader. You will also create a slide presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Presentation to present your campus STaR chart findings to the faculty and practice using a Web 2.0 tool to reflect on your learning.

Rubric

Use the following Rubric to guide your work on the Week 2 Assignment.

Tasks ↓	Accomplished 10 The evidence suggests that this work is a "Habit of Mind." The educator is ready to mentor others in this area.	Proficient 8 The evidence suggests that performance on this work matches that of a strong educator.	Needs Improvement 6 The evidence does not yet make the case for the educator being proficient at this task.
Campus STaR Chart Analysis	Student uses relevant STaR Chart information to complete the chart provided, and provides thorough analysis of campus technology strengths and weaknesses.	Student uses relevant STaR chart to fill out most of the chart provided and provides brief analysis of campus technology strengths and weaknesses.	Incorrect data pulled from STaR Chart; STaR data summary chart is not completed; and/or analyses of campus strengths and weaknesses are not completed.
Create a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with faculty.	Successfully creates a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with the faculty. The presentation (1) includes at least one chart of the STaR chart data; (2) includes at least one hyperlink; (3) uses navigational icons; (4) uses talking points only with six or less lines of text per slide; and (5) uses up to three digital photos to personalize to campus.	Successfully creates a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with faculty. The presentation will include three of the five components in the "accomplished" category.	Creates a slide presentation but includes one or fewer of the five components listed in the "accomplished" category.
Creating and Using a Blog	Student successfully sets up a blog and provides appropriate information related to the blog's creation or to a previously-created blog; student posts a thoughtful, 250-word critique of a Web site on the blog.	Student successfully sets up a blog and provides appropriate information; student posts 100-150 word critique of a Web site and posts it on blog.	Blog not created, and/or student does not write a Web site critique and post it on blog.
Assignment Mechanics	Responses are relevant to course content; no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Responses are relevant to course content; few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Responses do not reflect knowledge of course content, lack clarity and depth, and/or include multiple errors in grammar, spelling, and

			punctuation, including APA errors.
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Week 2 Assignment, Part 1: Campus STaR Chart Analysis

State law mandates that the Texas Campus STaR Chart be used to evaluate a campus' progress toward meeting the goals of the Long-Range Plan for Technology. The chart can also be used for technology planning, budgeting for resources, and evaluation of progress in local technology projects.

To complete this assignment:

- Access the Texas Campus STaR Chart by entering the following address in your Web address bar: <http://starchart.esc12.net/>
- Click on "Texas Campus STaR Chart," and read the article to review STaR Chart scoring.
- Click on "Statewide Summary Data." Click on 2007-2008 Summary Statistics. Print out the Statewide Data Summary.
- Click "Campus Data Search." Choose the year from the drop-down box. Then type in the name of your selected district (without "ISD"). For example, for Beaumont ISD, you would only type in Beaumont. Do not type in a campus. Click "Simple Search." A list of campuses in your district will appear.
- Click on your selected campus, and the STaR chart will appear.
- Print out the most current three years of STaR Charts for your selected campus.
- Analyze the data, fill out the chart below, and answer the questions provided.

School District: La Vernia ISD Campus: La Vernia Elementary (247903101)			
Summary Area	Key Area Totals	Key Area STaR Classifications	Trends
Teaching & Learning	2007-08: 12	2007-08: Developing Tech	Matches State average; Flat Campus growth.
	2006-07: 12	2006-07: Developing Tech	Matches State average; Negative Campus growth.
	2005-06: 14	2005-06: Developing Tech	Matches State average
Educator Preparation & Development	2007-08: 11	2007-08: Developing Tech	Matches State average; Flat Campus growth.
	2006-07: 11	2006-07: Developing Tech	Matches State average; Negative Campus growth.

	2005-06: 12	2005-06: Developing Tech	Matches State average
Leadership, Administration, & Instructional Support	2007-08: 13	2007-08: Developing Tech	Matches State average; Flat Campus growth.
	2006-07: 13	2006-07: Developing Tech	Matches State average; Positive Campus growth.
	2005-06: 12	2005-06: Developing Tech	Matches State average
Infrastructure for Technology	2007-08: 14	2007-08: Developing Tech	Below State average; Flat Campus growth.
	2006-07: 14	2006-07: Developing Tech	Below State average Positive Campus growth.
	2005-06: 12	2005-06 Developing Tech	Matches State average

What did the STaR Chart show as your campus' greatest strength? Do you agree with that assessment? Explain.

The Campus STaR Chart has consistently shown Infrastructure for Technology as our greatest strength on the Elementary campus, although we have fallen behind the State average the last two years as supplemental grant funding has been unavailable to us. I agree with this picture as we have still been able to supplement local infrastructure funds with E-Rate reimbursements and Technology Allotment funds, and we have a very progressive technology plan utilizing leading-edge technologies such as thin clients and advanced wireless networking. A concerted effort is made from the top down regarding keeping the network and all infrastructure reliable and available 24/7, and repairs are handled through maintenance ticket tracking software to prevent excessive aging of repair requests.

What did the STaR Chart show as your campus' greatest weakness? Do you agree with that assessment? Explain.

Although we match State averages, the greatest weakness with our Elementary campus the past three years has been in the area of Teaching and Learning. We had a negative trend between the 2005-2006 and the following school years, and remained flat from 2006 through 2008. Part of this is due to the loss of TARGET grant funding which left a void in integration training, peer mentoring and supplemental staff development. Although we have implemented an online curriculum system and a concerted effort is being made to get teachers to focus on the TEKS and TA-TEKS and act as facilitators rather than "the sage on the stage", progress has been slow. We have moved our Elementary staff and students into a new campus in January, and hope that the new environment, infused with newer technologies, will facilitate creating a positive trend for next year.

In an online learning community interaction, which STaR Chart area would you choose to introduce to the other members? What data supports your choice?

In an online learning community interaction, I would choose to introduce the Infrastructure for Technology area to other members. It has shown our best growth on the Elementary campus and I feel that area would also lend itself well to mentoring and sharing opportunities regarding our innovative approaches to infrastructure, including thin client technologies and advanced wireless which enable anywhere/anytime learning opportunities. This decision is supported by data in that, despite the fact we are below State averages in this area, our highest STaR Chart scores are in Infrastructure, and we have additional data to substantiate this choice.

Week 2 Assignment, Part 2: Creating a Slide Presentation

As an instructional leader, you must be able to effectively share information with the faculty. You must also be able to talk confidently about the process to those you lead. Throughout this Application, you will expand your knowledge and practice using technology tools. In Part 2 of the Application assignment, you will create a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with the faculty.

Directions:

- Create a slide presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Presentation to present your campus STaR chart findings to the faculty.
 1. Include at least one chart of the STaR chart data.
 2. Include at least one hyperlink.
 3. Use navigational icons.
 4. Use talking points only with six or fewer lines of text.
 5. Use up to three digital photos to personalize to campus.

Please note, I used Scribd.com to upload my PowerPoint presentation and embed it into my blog, but no matter what I do (I played with this for two hours) the navigation icons (previous, next, home) that I put on the master slide do not work within the blog. However, as scribd.com added a navigation bar at the top of my presentation as it was embedded into my blog, the presentation can still be scrolled through and you can navigate to home slide and last slide. It works and look great full-screen in Safari!

The navigation icons do work properly when the presentation is run in PowerPoint or the PowerPoint Viewer, or as an mhtml document.

Allen D. Bordelon

Week 2 Assignment, Part 3: Creating and Using a Blog

For the final part of this week's assignment, you will create your own blog and post an opinion piece on one of the four areas of the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020. If you already have your own blog, you may publish your piece on that. If you don't have your own blog, use the directions below to create one.

To complete this assignment:

- Access the video, "Blogs in Plain English" by entering the following address in your Web address bar: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NN2I1pWXjXI>
- View "Blogs in Plain English" as preparation for this assignment.
- Enter the following address in your Web address bar: www.blogger.com (if you do not have a blog), or use a blog you already have set up.
- Read the information about the site.
- Click "Create a Blog." Complete the information required to use the site, including the selection of a username and password. (If you already have a Google account, you can enter your username and password at the top of the home page.) Check the box to accept the terms of service, and click "Continue" to move to the next step.
- After creating your blog account, click "Name Blog."
- Select a title for the blog (example: "TX Long Range Plan" or something a little more creative) and a blog address URL (example: <http://yourname.blogspot.com>). Click "Continue" to move to the next step, "Choose a Template."
- Choose a template for your blog, then click "Continue."
- When the "Your Blog Has Been Created" screen appears, click "Start Blogging."
- On the screen provided, compose a 250-word opinion piece on one of the four areas of the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020: *Teaching and Learning; Educator Preparation and Development; Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support; or Infrastructure for Technology*. Include:
 - a description of the area.
 - progress in the area.
 - trends in the area.
 - your recommendations for improvement in the area.

- Record your blog information in the chart below. If you have a blog and did not need to create one for the assignment, enter that information. Then answer the questions on the next page.

Your Blog's Name	A Copy of Your Blog's Post (250-word opinion piece)	Your Blog's URL
Educating for Our Future	<p><i>Infrastructure for Technology: I Can Feel It Coming in the Air Tonight</i></p> <p>In the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020, there are four key domains: Teaching and Learning; Educator Preparation and Development; Leadership, Administration and Instructional Support; and Infrastructure for Technology. IMHO the most important domain is Infrastructure for Technology.</p> <p>Without a reliable and robust infrastructure system all is for naught. Our digital native students want to use digital cameras, iPods, netbooks, etc., to obtain and manipulate information. How can that happen if the Internet connection is down, or is so slow no one can use it? Email must be reliable, and the WAN and LAN must be dependable so that students can save and access files as needed.</p> <p>Within the past ten years, schools have made great progress in infrastructure. Federal E-Rate funding has provided service discounts enabling schools to obtain advanced telecommunication and high speed Internet services. The E-Rate program also affords schools serving economically disadvantaged students substantial discount funding to install network routers, switches, and both wired and wireless network infrastructure. It is now rare to see schools without access in every classroom.</p> <p>The most exciting trend in infrastructure is the explosive growth of high-speed wireless networks. When technology was hard-wired, it was difficult to take a computer out into the field for a biology lesson, and clunky to upload digital pictures when the camera had</p>	http://educatingforourfuture.blogspot.com/

	<p>to be cabled into a computer. Now, new wireless technologies including Wi-Fi and Bluetooth allow a host of devices to effortlessly share images and files, and handheld wireless computing devices such as iPods and netbooks can "go where the action is" for anytime, anywhere learning.</p>	
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	<p>My recommendation is for schools to install wireless as their <u>primary</u> network infrastructure, creating learning opportunities where they never existed before!</p>	
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What is the educational value of blogs and blogging to the 21st century learner?

<p>The educational value of blogging is that we create communities of learners and educators despite vast distance and time barriers, and the ensuing dialog and interaction exposes us to ideas and information that may be very different from our local communities. The dialog that blogging enables not only helps us learn from a very diverse community but makes sure our own viewpoints and our concerns can be expressed no matter how isolated or small our local community may be. Blogging is also valuable in that good blogs tend to limit their subject area to a specific topic, such as "technology integration". This makes it easy to find and follow weblogs dealing with your particular interest, unlike a website that might contain a host of different topics and subject matter and be difficult to sift through.</p>
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What are the concerns of blogs and blogging in education?

<p>The main concerns I have heard regarding educational blogging are that the relative anonymity of the poster may often encourage them to exaggerate, deal in rumors or post invalid information that is difficult to overcome once it is in cyberspace, and that people may use their blog as a soapbox to attack other ideas or people. Cyber-bullying is often associated with blogging in the mind of the public. I believe participating in well-moderated, closely-monitored educational blogs is a good way to address these concerns.</p>
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How can you use blogging to communicate with school stakeholders?

<p>As schools and districts create committees of parents and community members to address planning, construction, bond programs, etc., a blog would be an excellent way to keep everyone informed, share opinions and facts, get feedback from the group and eliminate the need for some of the informational meetings that people rarely attend. Each stakeholder could follow only the blogs with topics of interest to them, such as construction or technology integration.</p>
